REMARKS

This application is being filed concurrently with entry into the National Stage (Chapter I) of International Application No. PCT/GB2004/004204 which claims the priority of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0324279.9.

The Specification has been amended to place it in proper U.S. format.

In addition, this Preliminary Amendment was considered when calculating the filing fee. Accordingly, the total number of claims specified on the Transmittal Letter is 17 and the number of independent claims is 2.

Claims 1-17 remain in the application. Claims 3, 5-11, and 14-16 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies in these claims and to place the claims in proper U.S. format.

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. However, as a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

The BOC Group, Inc. Legal Services-Intellectual Property 575 Mountain Avenue Murray Hill, NJ 07974

Phone: 908-771-6469

Fax: 908-771-6159

Ira Lee Zebrak

Registration No. 31,147 Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: